

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000792

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/CT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE COUNTERTERRORISM ACTION GROUP IN TURKEY

REF: SECSTATE 14279

[1](#)1. (SBU) In response to reftel, on Jan. 29 DCM convened a meeting of the Counterterrorism Action Group (CTAG) to discuss anti-terrorism programs in Turkey. Reps from all G-8 countries and from Australia, Spain and Switzerland attended. A representative from the EU Commission could not attend but informed poloff a rep will participate in future CTAG meetings in Turkey. The following is a country-by-country breakdown of assistance programs, assessments of Turkey's counterterrorism capabilities, and analysis of areas for improvement.

Japan

[1](#)2. (SBU) Japan concentrates most of its anti-terrorism assistance programs in Asia but has provided training to Turkish law enforcement officials. In 2003, two Turkish police officers attended a seminar on International Terrorism Investigation. Currently, there are no plans for Turkish participation in 2004.

France

[1](#)3. (SBU) The French representative noted that until very recently, anti-terrorism cooperation with Turkey was extremely limited, possibly due to an Armenian genocide resolution passed in France. In 2004, however, two members of the Turkish police will travel to France for a week-long training course on international terrorism. France also cooperates with Turkish law enforcement to combat illegal migration and drug trafficking. France has permanent links with Turkish National Police (TNP) units involved with counter terrorism and internal intelligence.

Italy

[1](#)4. (SBU) Italy is leading a program that is funded by the European Commission to strengthen MASAK, Turkey's financial crimes investigations organization. The 2-million Euro "twinning" program will begin in March and has a 24-month implementation period. An Italian expert is expected to arrive in Turkey soon to assist MASAK officials but the arrival is pending the completion of an MOU with the GOT. The goals of the program are: 1) to improve the legal basis for combating terrorist finance; 2) to provide specialized training to Turkish officials; 3) to provide a way for Turkish officials to have direct contact with European Union counterparts; and 4) to evaluate the role of and to strengthen MASAK. The overall goal of the program is to bring Turkey into compliance with the EU's Acquis.

Russia

[1](#)5. (SBU) Russian anti-terrorism cooperation with Turkey centers around several agreements signed at various levels of the Turkish and Russian governments since 1992. Russia and Turkey also cooperate within the context of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization in the fields of border security and maritime issues. Beyond these broad agreements at the government-to-government level, there is little to no cooperation at the working level. The Russian representative asserted that the most important area for improvement in

Turkish anti-terrorism activities is terrorist finance.

Canada

16. (SBU) Canada has been working for several years with the TNP in training Turkish police instructors in forensics, document examination, cyber crime, and major case management. Canada has also sponsored exchange-of-visitor programs in the law enforcement area.

United Kingdom

17. (SBU) Following the Nov. 2003 bombings in Istanbul, the U.K. has been trying to improve information sharing among Turkish security organizations and the U.K., an area the U.K. rep noted that needs substantial improvement. U.K. is currently trying to arrange a multi-agency visit of Turkish counterterrorism experts to the U.K. to meet their counterparts as well as agree on an MOU on future counterterrorism cooperation. The U.K. has a full-time officer assigned to assist the Turkish government on money laundering issues, but U.K. assistance has primarily taken the form of English-language training for Turkish police officers through the British Council in Ankara. The head of the TNP intelligence department has been to the U.K. to discuss technical capabilities against terrorists.

Germany

18. (SBU) Overall, German programs support TNP efforts against organized crime and money laundering. German cooperation with Turkish intelligence began in 2000. Cooperation with Turkish law enforcement against terrorism improved after September 11 and again following bombings in Istanbul. Currently, Germany has four EU-tied "twinning" project proposals related to counterterrorism assistance. The projects will total around 10 million Euros and probably will not begin until summer 2004. The proposed initiatives are in the following fields: 1) forensic science (crime scene and crime labs) with TNP; 2) money laundering; 3) organized crime; and 4) human smuggling. There is also a proposal for some 20-30 Turkish intelligence officers to work in counterterrorism offices in Germany for several months. Germany also currently provides language training to intelligence officers.

19. (SBU) Echoing his British counterpart, the German rep averred that a major problem in Turkey is the lack of effective coordination among Turkish security organizations. The mandate to fight terrorism, in particular, is split among too many government entities, the rep noted. Cooperation among the various organizations needs to be better.

Spain, Australia, Switzerland

110. (SBU) Spain has no bilateral assistance anti-terrorism assistance programs in Turkey but, like Italy and Germany, is pursuing a broad project within the context of the EU's "twinning" program to re-organize TNP to make the police more efficient, effective and in line with the EU Acquis. Australia and Switzerland do not have assistance programs in Turkey.

Future Participation

111. (SBU) Participants unanimously agreed that future CTAG meetings should include representatives from the GOT, particularly from TNP and MFA.
EDELMAN